Key Facts

Henri Rousseau was a post-impressionist painter.

From 1886, he exhibited regularly in the Salon des Indépendants, and, although his work was not placed prominently, it drew an increasing following over the years.

Rousseau worked briefly as a lawyer and served in the army, rather than having any formal art education. He is often called 'a self-taught genius'.

Henri Rousseau (1844-1910)

Key Styles and Influences

Rousseau was part of a group of artists called the post-impressionists. Like the impressionists before them, they used vivid colours, thick paint and real-life subject matter, but they wanted more emotion in their work. Rousseau is considered to have a naïve or primitive quality to his work, reflecting his lack of formal training. Naïve art is often recognised for its simplicity and childlike qualities

Key Work

Self Portrait (1890)

Key Work

Tiger in a Tropical Storm (Surprised!) (1891)

Key Work

The Repast of the Lion (1907)

Key Vocabulary

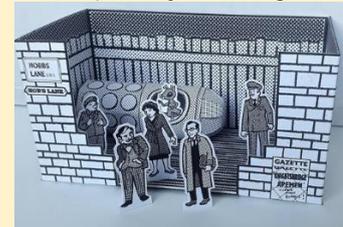|	
Diorama	A three-dimensional piece of work representing a scene. 'Scenery' and the subjects of the diorama and placed at different distances from the front
Foreground	Those aspects of the diorama at the very front of the artwork, usually low and often vividly coloured.
Midground	Those parts of the diorama set between the foreground and background, often where the subject is found.
Background	The back panel of the diorama, often in slightly paler tints.

3D: Diorama

- Cut and join paper and card effectively, considering its textures and rigidity to give a range of effects.
- Use shades and tints of colour help to create depth, contrasts and perspective.
- Show an understanding of shape, space and form.

Examples of Existing Art

Quatermass and the Pit

Greetings cards

In Museums

Dioramas are often used to show animal exhibits in their natural habitats.

In Puppet Theatres

Puppet theatres often use simple dioramas for settings, enabling puppets to hide behind scenery.

Rainforest diorama